Tokyo Lastochika

by Furumachi Miyoshi

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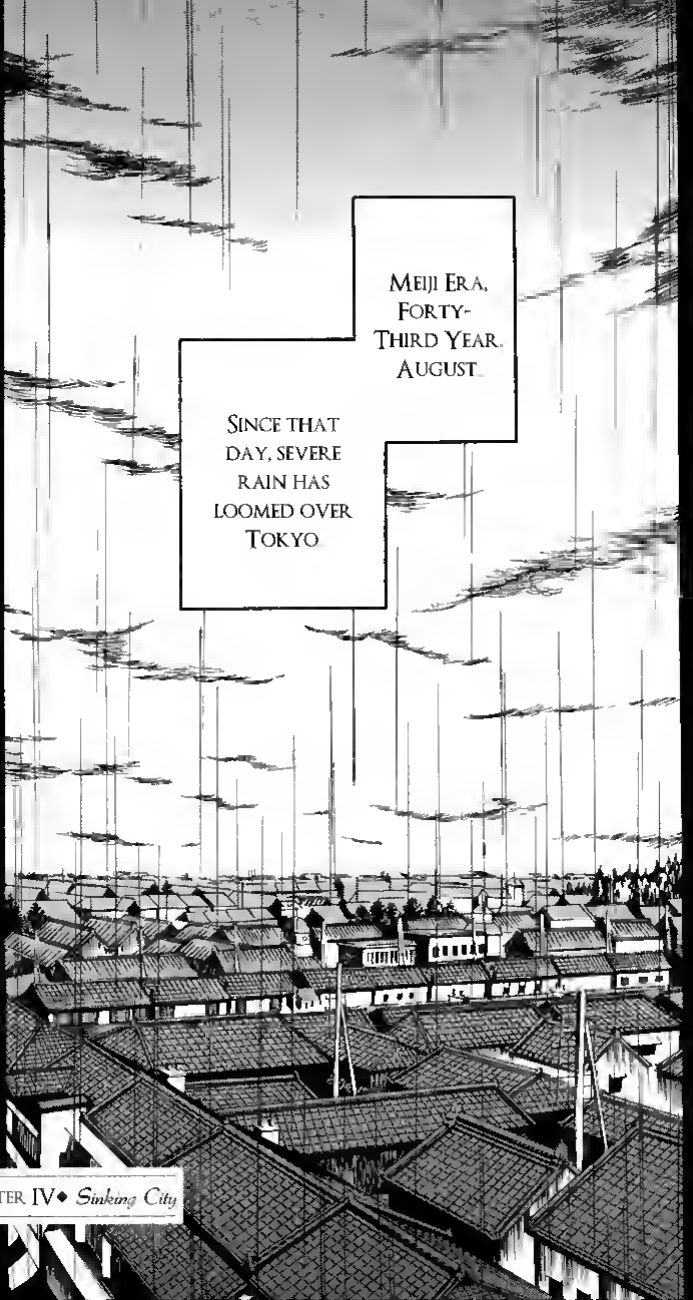

CHAPTER IV◆ *Sinking City*

DAY OFF?
YES I'M TAKING THE REST OF THE DAY OFF
IT IS THE ANNIVER-SARY OF MY MOTHER'S DEATH
OH, I SEE
OH, WHICH PATTERN DO YOU THINK IS BETTER FOR THIS HANKER-CHIEF?
LET'S SEE HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
YEAH, THE FLORAL PAT-TERN IS WAY BETTER
HEY NOW,
MITSU-NII-SAMA–
PLEASE DO NOT HOG HANA ALL THE TIME
SHE HAS HER OWN THINGS TO DO, YOU KNOW

ISN'T THERE ANY OTHER OPTION BESIDES SHOPPING?
WHO WOULD WANT TO GO OUT IN THIS WEATHER?
SHOPPING IN A CATALOGUE IS ABOUT THE BEST WE CAN DO WITHOUT GETTING WET, ISN'T IT?
BUT THIS RAIN REALLY HAS GONE ON A LONG TIME...
...I'M GETTING SICK OF THIS.
YES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL CONTINUE FOR A WHILE
PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU HEAD OUT TODAY

I WISH...
IT'D HURRY UP AND STOP RAINING...
NEE-CHAN!
AKIYOSHI! YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S ONLY BEEN A COUPLE OF MONTHS! I CAN'T GET THAT BIG
HAVE YOU BEEN WELL?
OF COURSE
HERE, GREET MOTHER
OKAY

HEY MOM.
SHE'S HAPPY TO SEE YOU
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
SHE'S OUR MOTHER
I'M SURE OF IT

.....

REALLY? WOULD YOU?!
THEN I'LL DROP YOU OFF
I WANT TO GO CHECK OUT OUR FACTORY BY THE RIVER SIDE,
I MAY HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN FOR THE DAY IF THIS GETS ANY WORSE
MITSU-NII-SAMA, I SHOULD BE GOING SOON
AT THIS RATE I MIGHT HAVE TO CALL A FERRYMAN TO PICK ME UP
I SUPPOSE MITSU-NII-SAMA TRULY IS A BUSINESSMAN...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, UNCLE TSUNE-MITSU WOULD NEVER SHUT THE FACTORY DOWN
I'M JUST WORRIED...
IS THAT SO.

I HEARD THAT THE LOWER PARTS OF TOWN ARE BEGINNING TO FLOOD
THE HASTY ONES HIKED UP TO MOUNT ATAGO AND THEY'RE SCARED OUTTA THEIR WITS
HAHA, JUST LEAVE THEM THE WATER WON'T GET UP THERE ANYWAYS.
I WONDER IF EVERYONE AT THE APARTMENTS ARE DOING FINE
THE ONES FROM NIPPORI?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE SEEN THEM
THOSE PEOPLE ARE POOR WHO WILL SAVE THEM IF THEY GET CORNERED BY THE FLOOD?
I'M NOT SURE
YEAH
SHALL WE GO SEE?
YEAH

MURAI-SAN!
ビシャビシャ
WELL IF IT ISN'T HANA-CHAN AND LITTLE AKI!
HOW'S IT GOING? IT'S BEEN A WHILE
WE WERE WORRIED BECAUSE OF THIS RAIN
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
IS YOUR ROOF STILL LEAKING?
JUST AS YOU SEE
THERE ISN'T MUCH FLOODING YET BUT THE RAIN IS HEAVY ENOUGH
IT'S PRACTICALLY A WATERFALL.
BUT EVERYWHERE AROUND HERE IS LIKE THAT. OH?

THAT BUNDLE... IS THAT WHAT I MADE FOR YOU?
YOUR MOTH-ER'S..
YES I FINALLY WAS ABLE TO ENGRAVE IT TODAY
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT TIME, MURAI-SAN
...LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP.
I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER WOULD BE PROUD

I JUST NEED TO CARRY THESE SAND-BAGS?
HEY HEY! LOOK WHO'S TALKING BIG NOW
MURAI-SAN, WE'LL HELP OUT HERE TOO
YEAH, LET'S GET TO IT
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BUT WHERE WOULD WE GO?!
IT'S HORRIBLE! ONE OF THE GUYS THAT WENT TO CHECK WAS SWEPT AWAY!
WE SHOULD PROBABLY HIGH TAIL IT OUT OF HERE
HOW DOES THE RIVER LOOK?
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……
THERE'S NO CONTACT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT ALL!
NO WAY...
WHO CARES! THEY DON'T CARE WHAT WE DO OR WHERE WE GO!
HANA-CHAN, WE SHOULD ALSO..
Y-YEAH

HANA?
BUT WHERE?
ESCAPE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
MITSU-YUKI-SAMA-
LOOK AT YOU AND YOU'RE ALL WET!
HURRY, GET TO THE CAR-RIAGE.
PLEASE WAIT! DO YOU KNOW OF ANY SHEL-TERS AROUND HERE?
SHEL-TER?
NO ONE HAS COME TO GIVE US ANY INSTRUC-TIONS

I DID SEE SOME PEOPLE HEADED TOWARDS SENSOU TEMPLE EARLIER..
SENSOU TEMPLE
IT'S TOO FAR FROM HERE,
AND AT THIS RATE
NEE-CHAN, COME ON!
I GUESS WE CAN ONLY HELP AS WE GO...
WAIT,
IS IT JUST A PLACE YOU NEED?
...YES
THEN COME TO THE FACTORY
WE CAN TRANSPORT THOSE WHO NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION TO THE ESTATE

I'LL LEAD US THERE, FOLLOW ME
MITSU-YUKI-SAMA
LET'S HURRY
HEEE EEY!!!
THE EM-BANK-MENT GAVE WAY!
RUN!

OVER THERE!
WE NEED TO GET HIGHER!
STICK TOGETHER !!
ザバッ
NEE-CHAN!
WHAT'S WRONG ?
WHAT SHOULD I DO... MOTHER... I LEFT MOTHER BEHIND!

AKIYOSHI!
I HAVE TO GO GET IT!
IN THE APART-MENTS
WHERE ?!
WAIT! YOU CAN'T-!
WHICH HOUSE IS IT IN? ITS SHAPE?
U-UM IT'S THE HOUSE ON THE EDGE OUR MOTHER'S TABLET!
MITSU-YUKI-SAMA

PLEASE STOP, WE NEED TO..!
IT'S ALRIGHT
IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, ISN'T IT?
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IS THIS IT?
HOW STRANGE...
I SUP-POSE,
IT LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL WOODEN TILE THOUGH

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HANA!
I'M AL-
RIGHT!
...HANA.
EVERYONE ELSE HAS FLED..
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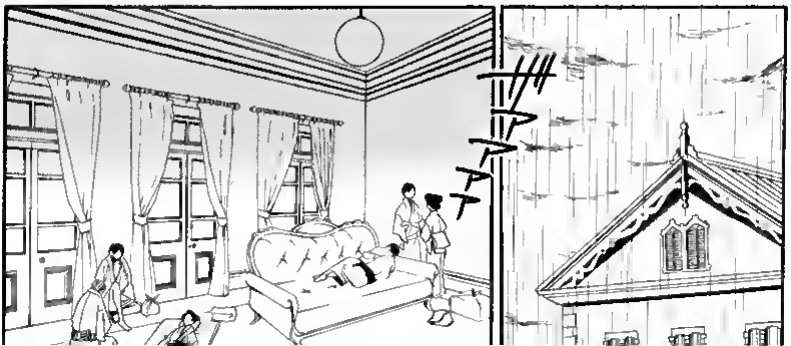
LET'S HURRY! IT'S GOING TO FLOOD EVEN MORE HERE!

THANK...
THANK GOOD-NESS.
MI MITSUYUKI -SAMA, WE NEED TO HURRY.
Y-YEAH, SORRY.
LET'S GO.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Excuse me, coming through!
I'M GLAD IT'S SAFE
REALLY... BRINGING THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE HERE...
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELP-ING US
NO, THAT SHOULD BE MY LINE
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME

...IT MUST BE VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU

I SEE
YES! OF COURSE!
ARE YOU GLAD THAT I WENT TO RETREIVE IT?
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UH UM...
JUST STAY STILL.
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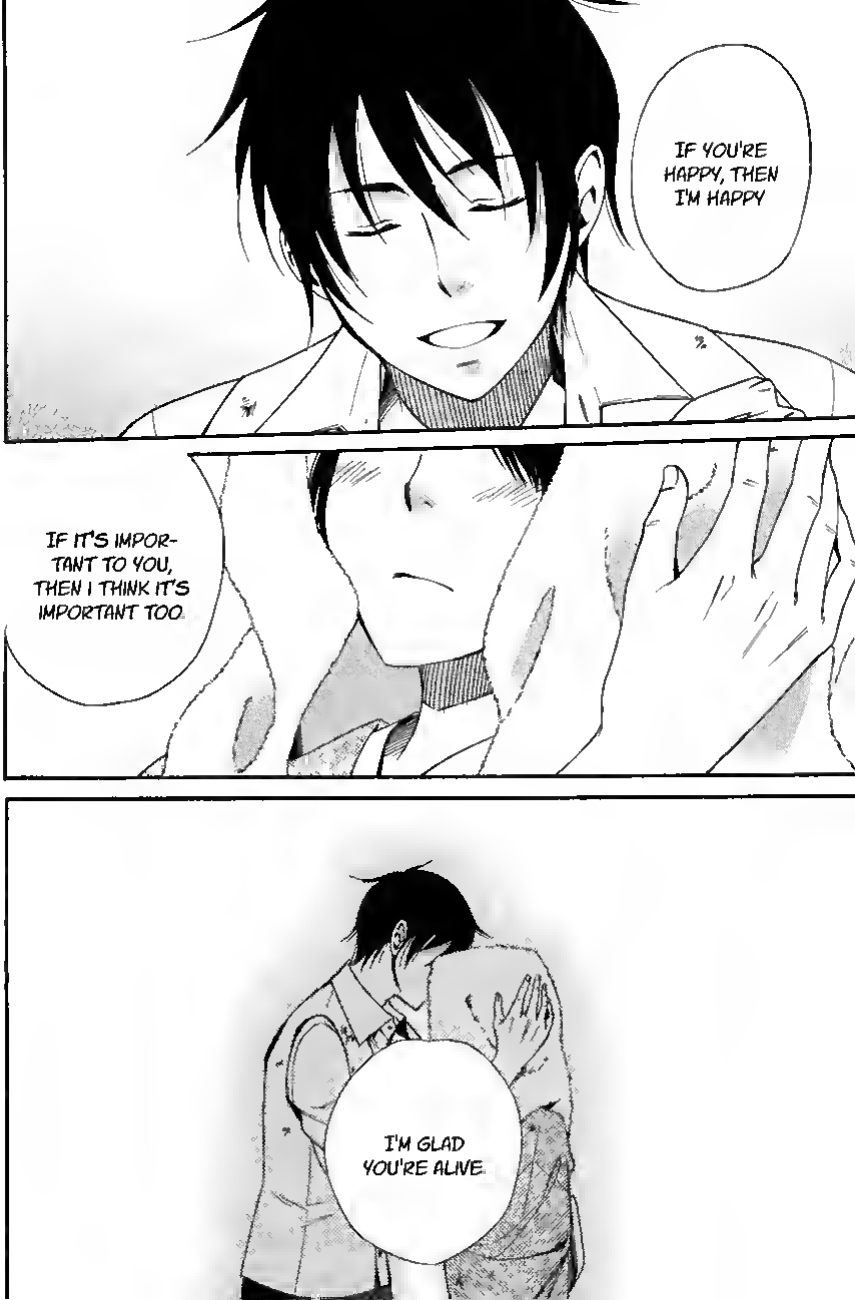
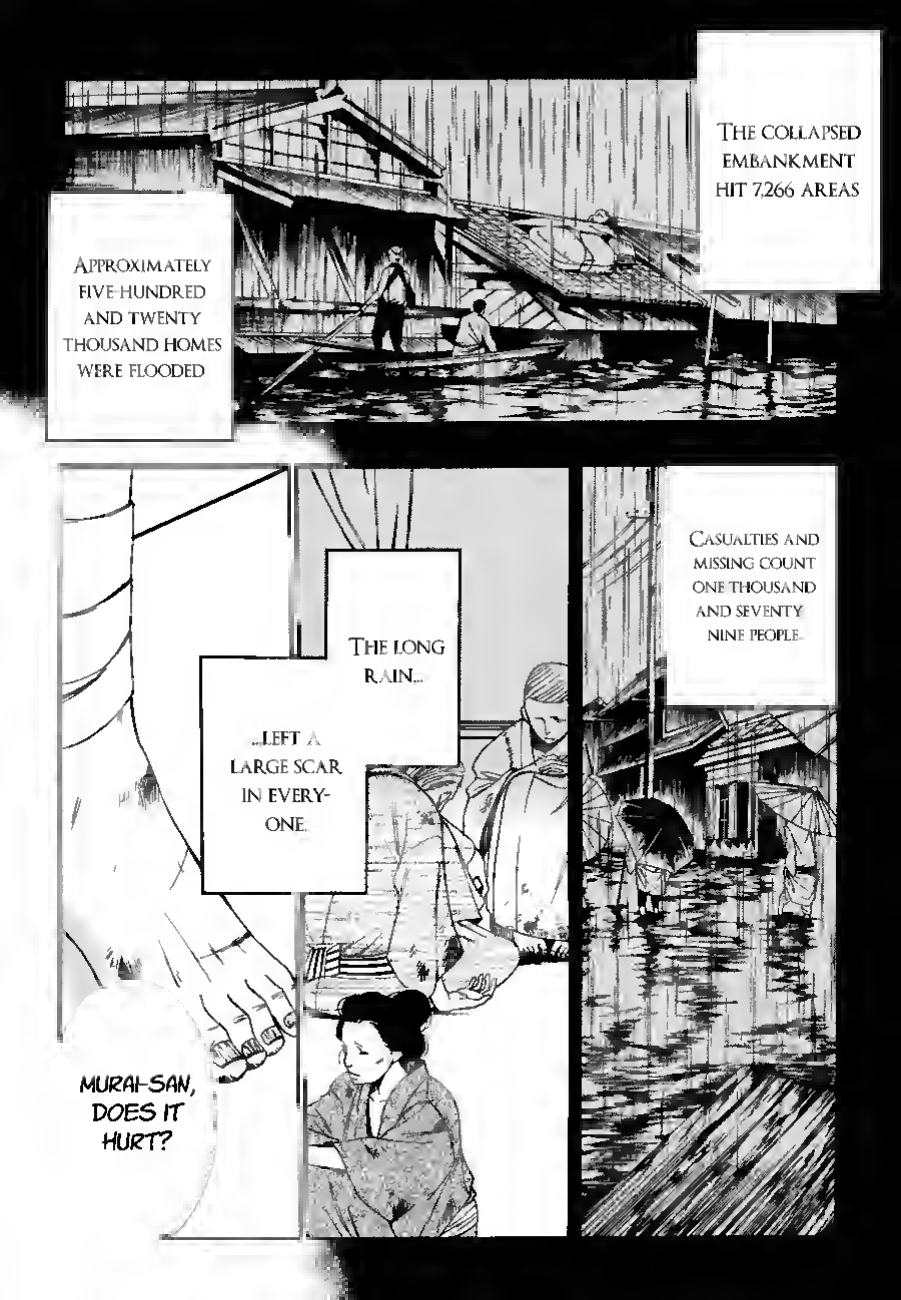

IF YOU'RE HAPPY, THEN I'M HAPPY
IF IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, THEN I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TOO.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE.

AFTER YOU GET CHANGED, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE MEALS FOR EVERYONE
I'M GOING TO WARM MYSELF UP WITH SOME-THING... I GUESS I CAN LEAVE THAT TO TAE

IS IT BECAUSE MOTHER IS SAFE?
WHAT'S THIS...

?
THAT DAY...


THE COLLAPSED EMBANKMENT HIT 7,266 AREAS
APPROXIMATELY FIVE-HUNDRED AND TWENTY THOUSAND HOMES WERE FLOODED
THE LONG RAIN...
...LEFT A LARGE SCAR IN EVERY-ONE.
CASUALTIES AND MISSING COUNT ONE THOUSAND AND SEVENTY NINE PEOPLE.
MURAI-SAN, DOES IT HURT?

...I'VE NEVER LIKED THESE RICH PEOPLE FROM THE START
BUT I GUESS SOME OF THEM ARE NOT THAT BAD
NAH, I'M FINE. BEING IN SUCH A SPLENDID MANSION KINDA MAKES ME FORGET ABOUT IT...
IS THAT SO?
THEY'RE THE ARIMA'S
ARIMA?
I SUPPOSE HANA'S LUCKY...
UHH... WHAT WAS THEIR NAME?
OH MY- THAT'S BAD!
Y-YES, I DID
HEY, DID YOU JUST SAY ARIMA? THE ONES HANA IS WORKING FOR RIGHT NOW?

THE ARIMA'S HAVE A SPINNING FACTORY IN HONJOU, NO?
THE ONE YOUR MOTHER WORKED FOR...RIGHT?
...THAT'S RIGHT, WHY...?
WHY, YOU SAY?!
YOUR MOTHER GOT SICK FROM WORKING THERE!
EH
THERE'S PLENTY OF WOMEN WORKERS WHO DIED FROM LUNG PROBLEMS THERE,
NO BREAKS, BAD WAGES
THAT'S ENOUGH!

THEN THAT MEANS THIS COULD ALL JUST BE A WAY TO LOOK GOOD TO THE PUBLIC.
RICH PEOPLE JUST CAN'T BE TRUSTED.
AKIYOSHI, WHAT'S WRONG?
NEE-CHAN...

LET'S GO HOME!
EH?
WORK ANY-WHERE BUT HERE, NEE-CHAN...!

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How you say?
Sure ...
But ... how?